REMARKS

Claims 26-55 were previously pending. Claims 30 and 46 have been amended, claims 26-29, 31-37, 44-45 and 47-55 have been canceled without prejudice, and claims 55-76 have been added. Hence claims 30, 38-43, 46, and 55-76 are currently pending. The previously pending claims 26-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. based on a combination of Iwama, Sitaraman and Salama. Applicant respectfully amends in part and traverses in part to address the aforementioned rejection.

Independent claim 65 provides a method for facilitating third party support of telecommunication services. The method includes, *inter alia*, providing a telecommunication services network, and receiving a communication request from an inbound gateway outside the telecommunication services network. *The inbound gateway is part of a border network*, and media associated with the communication request is directed from the inbound gateway to an outbound gateway such that the media content bypasses the telecommunication services network. Among other things, such an approach allows a border network provider to leverage its inbound and/or outbound equipment to allow a third party telecommuncation services provider to service its clients. See e.g., Application at ¶ 10. In such a case, a call may be received by the border network provider and forwarded to a destination with only minimal interaction with the third party telecommunication services provider. This can, for example, limit the amount of hardware installed and maintained by the third party telecommunication services provider. See e.g., Application at ¶ 12.

Neither Iwama, Sitaraman nor Salama disclose, teach or suggest such an approach. For example, in stark contrast to Applicants' claim 65, Sitaraman discloses a system whereby a user, "Joe@ISP.net", directly calls the telecommunication services provider, "ISP.net" (40). The telecommunications service provider (40) maintains a set of equipment including a call agent (46) and a local AAA proxy server (48) capable of receiving a call from the user, identifying the user, determining the best one of of ISPA and ISPB to transmit the call. See Sitaraman at Fig. 7; col. 6, ll. 30-65. The call agent (46) then sets up the appropriate call. Id. Thus, Sitaraman discloses a system whereby the telecommunication services provider *must* provide the equipment directly interacting with the user to authenticate the user. This stands in stark contrast to that provided by claim 65. Neither Salama nor Iwama cure this limitation of Sitaraman. Hence,

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claim 65 is allowable over the combination of references. Such allowance is respectfully requested herein.

Further claims 66-70 properly depend from allowable claim 65 and are thus allowable for at least this reason. Also, independent claims 30, 56 and 71 each include limitations similar to those described in relation to claim 65 that are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the aforementioned references. Further, claims 38-43, 46, 57-64 and 72-76 all depend from an allowable indpendent claim and are thus allowable for at least this reason. Hence, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. Therefore, an early Office Action to that effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of this case in any way, please call the undersigned at 303-607-3500.

The fee for $980.00 for the Petition for Extension for response within the third month is included in the credit card form PTO-2038. Please charge any additional fees required or credit any overpayments for this Amendment to Deposit Account 06-0029.

Dated: 10/22/04

Respectfully submitted,

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